



A.D. 1852 N° 1064.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

JEAN FRANCOIS ISIDORE CAPLIN.

APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING OR CURING
A STOOPING OF THE HEAD OR OF THE
BODY.

L O N D O N :

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A.D. 1852 N° 1064.

**Apparatus for Preventing or Curing a Stooping of
the Head or of the Body.**

LETTERS PATENT to Jean Francois Isidore Caplin, of Strawberry Hill, near Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, Orthorachidist, for the Invention of “**IMPROVEMENTS IN APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING OR CURING A STOOPING OF THE HEAD OR OF THE BODY.**”

Sealed the 30th March 1853, and dated the 15th December 1852.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said Jean Francois Isidore Caplin at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 15th December 1852.

5 I, JEAN FRANCOIS ISIDORE CAPLIN, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for “**IMPROVEMENTS IN APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING OR CURING A STOOPING OF THE HEAD OR OF THE BODY,**” to be as follows:—

10 This apparatus is composed of two plates, united with and shaped so as to fit the neck. On each side is a small upright supporting a cross lever, the extremities of which come, on the one hand, under the chin, the others corresponding to the nape of the neck, where it is connected with the second part of the instrument, made also of

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two plates, pressing on the scapulæ, and fitted round the shoulders. This part is connected and regulated at pleasure by means of straps and buckles, clasps or laces, and is fastened to a waist band. The result of such an adaptation is to supply the want of muscular power in the muscles of the neck and back by means acting in 5 harmony with the muscular system. The whole may be covered with any fancy material.

This instrument is composed of two different parts; the upper is entirely new, the second one is an improvement on the scapula contractors, already known as my contrivance. The instrument may, 10 according to the case, be employed separately; viz. for the neck only, when that part is the only one affected, or for the shoulders when the stooping of the body is not complicated with the poking of the head.

SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters 15 Patent, filed by the said Jean Francois Isidore Caplin in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 15th June 1853.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, JEAN FRANCOIS ISIDORE CAPLIN, of Strawberry Hill, near Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, Orthorachidist, send greeting. 20

WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Fifteenth day of December, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, in the sixteenth year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said Jean Francois Isidore Caplin, Her special license 25 that I, the said Jean François Isidore Caplin, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said Jean Francois Isidore Caplin, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully 30 might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of

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Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention of "**IMPROVEMENTS IN APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING OR CURING A STOOPING OF THE HEAD OR OF THE BODY**," upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said Jean Francois Isidore Caplin, by an instrument
5 in writing under my hand and seal, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention and Improvements, and in what manner the same were to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent.

10 **NOW KNOW YE**, that I, the said Jean Francois Isidore Caplin, do hereby declare the nature of my said Invention and Improvements, and in what manner the same are to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement, and accompanying Drawings (that is to say):

15 This apparatus is composed of two distinct parts, which, according as the case may require, are to be used either in connection, or separately when one part only is wanted. The deformities it is intended to cure being the result of a deficiency or loss of equilibrium of the muscular system, the object of the instrument is to
20 supply the body with an extra support, which although artificial will produce the desired effect, inasmuch as it will permit the retraction of the muscles elongated and weakened, serving, at the same time as a monitor, to remind the wearer not to indulge in the bad position of the neck or body by which the evil is brought on or increased.
25 This adaptation differs from those which have been used for the same purpose, in this respect, that the collars and backboards formerly employed, being made of hard material, without elasticity, occasioned a constant pressure on the muscles, by which atrophy was produced, diminishing therefore more and more the power of
30 the muscles, and serving merely as props to maintain the body in a certain position, without restoring the deficiency of the parts affected; whilst this new adaptation, of which the principle of construction and its appliances are my own Invention, is acting in such way that not only does it support the body, but at the same time it
35 induces an extra exertion of the muscles, by which their power is

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increased, and consequently the cure ultimately performed. The instrument is composed partly of metal, to afford support, and of spring and elastic fabric, the strength of which is calculated to act in accordance with the anatomical construction of the skeleton, and the physiological laws of the vital organism. 5

The splenius elevator of the scapulæ, scalenus, and trapezius muscles of the neck, being those by which the head is kept in its proper and natural position, whilst the trapezius rhombodeus, lattissimus dorsi, longissimus dorsi, sacro lombaris, are those by which the trunk is kept erect, the shoulders thrown backward, the scapulæ approxi- 10 mated to the spine, the spine straightened, the ribs elevated, the capacity of the chest increased, and the respiratory muscles brought into action ; it is evident that such a contrivance, by which the action of those muscles may be promoted and duly regulated, cannot fail to prove of the utmost benefit. In entering into these details, my 15 object is to point out the importance of the scientific adaptation of principle, so as to cause it to be well understood that contrivances which are not founded on rational principles are more dangerous than useful, and are likely to produce the contrary effects to those for which they were intended ; accounting therefore for the failure of 20 those instruments which, from time to time, have been brought forth by people unacquainted with the structure of the human body.

In order that my Invention may be fully understood, I will refer to the figures of the Drawing accompanying this my Specification. Figure 1, is a view of the upper portion of the apparatus 25 only, and may be employed by itself, as above mentioned, for an affection of the neck only. Figure 2, is a view of a modification of Figure 1, intended particularly for gentlemen, it being made in the form of an ordinary stock. Figure 3, is a view of the two portions of the apparatus combined, applicable, therefore, to cases in 30 which the poking of the head is accompanied by a stooping of the body. In Figure 1, *a*, are pieces of metal, shaped so as to fit round the neck from the upper portion of the sternum to the nape of the neck, and backward. These are connected by a piece of steel *b*,

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acting as a spring, so as to admit of the plates *a*, being opened at back, in order to apply the instrument. To the plates *a*, are rivetted small uprights *c*, acting as supports for levers *d*, which turn upon centres thereon. To these levers are attached plates *e*,
5 formed so as to extend under the chin. To the other extremities of the levers *d*, are adapted pieces of elastic fabric *f*, the lower ends of which are connected to the brace, garment, or belt, as the case may require. These elastic parts will therefore regulate the power exerted upon the levers *d*; thus affording the means of
10 keeping the head erect to any degree that may be required, without danger of hurting the wearer. The above described apparatus is shewn in its bare form in the Drawing. It will be evident, however, that it may be covered with any fancy material, according to desire. The modification shewn in Figure 2, differs only in shape; the neck
15 piece *a*, and levers *b*, being substantially the same. The elastic *f*, may be passed beneath the waistcoat, and connected to a loop provided for the purpose, or it may be attached to the brace of the 2nd part of the instrument hereafter to be described. In Figure 3, the two parts are shewn combined; the several portions of the
20 upper part are marked with letters corresponding to those of Figure 1, and will not therefore need further description. *g*, are pieces fitting over the scapulæ, and connected to pieces of elastic fabric *h*, which pass over the shoulders. They are also provided with other elastic pieces *i*, intended to pass under the arms, and
25 connected to sliders *j*, so as to move up and down on the tongue *k*; this arrangement is shewn separated. On one side of Figure 3, *l*, *l*, are pieces of elastic material, uniting the parts *g*, *g*, and crossing in the direction of the muscles, by which arrangements the shoulders are brought back, affording, therefore, as before explained, an extra
30 support to the back and spine, and causing the chest to expand. The lower parts of the pieces *g*, *g*, are provided with tongues *m*, to be connected to the garment; they are adapted to buttons or swivels so as to accommodate themselves to the requisite inclination. The upper part of the apparatus, described by reference to Figure 1, is

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adapted to that just described, by connecting the elastic *f*, to the pieces *g*, as shewn in the Drawing.

In witness whereof, I, the said Jean Francois Isidore Caplin, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Fourteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

J. CAPLIN, M.D. (L.S.)

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FIG. 1.

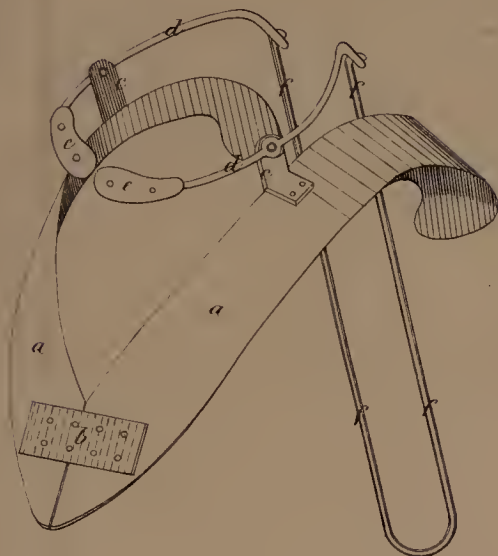


FIG. 3.

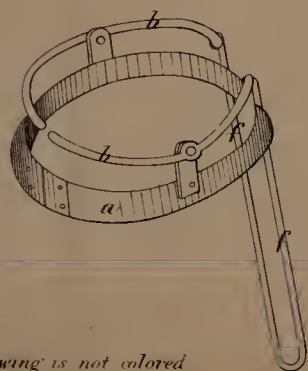


FIG. 2.

